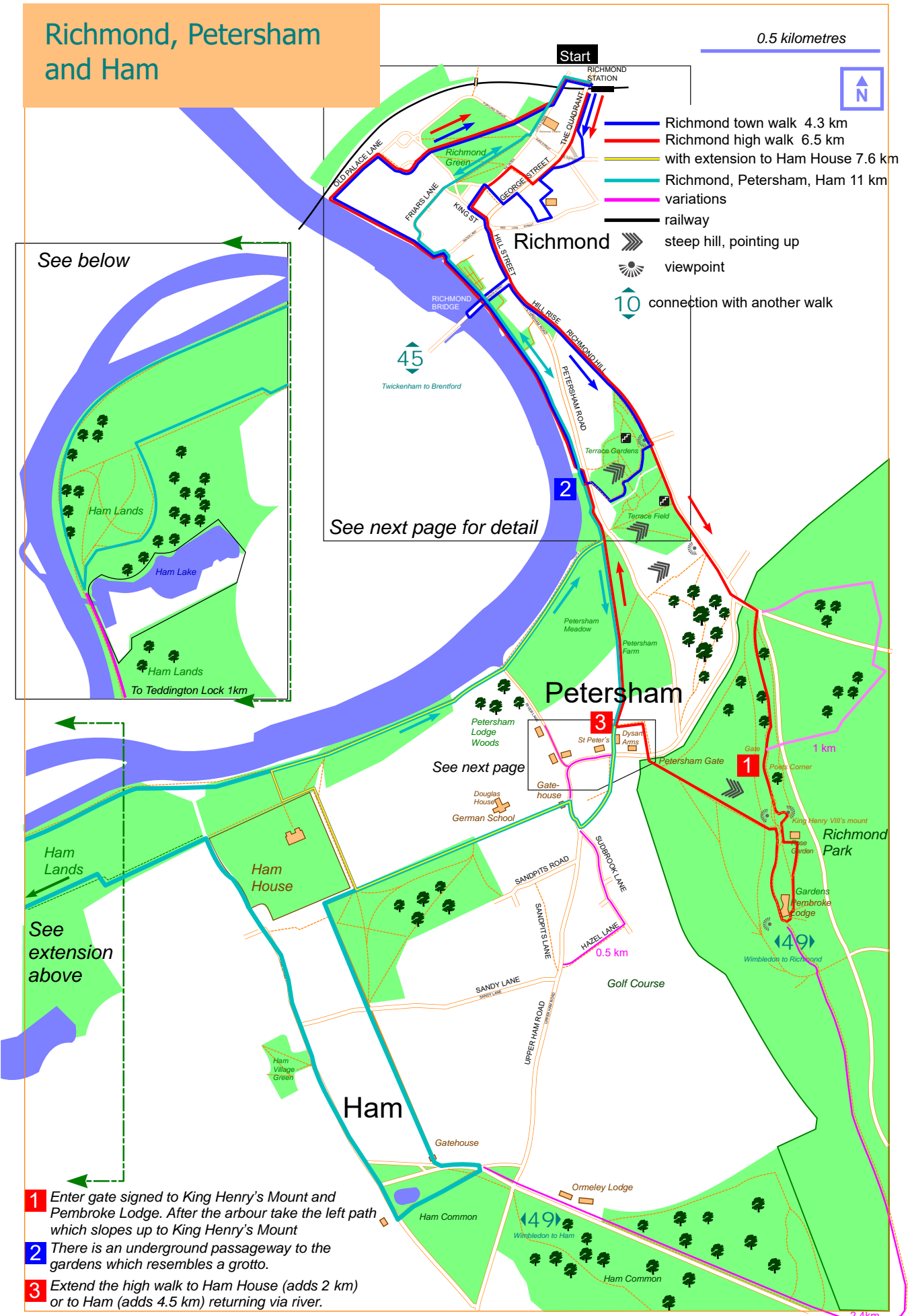
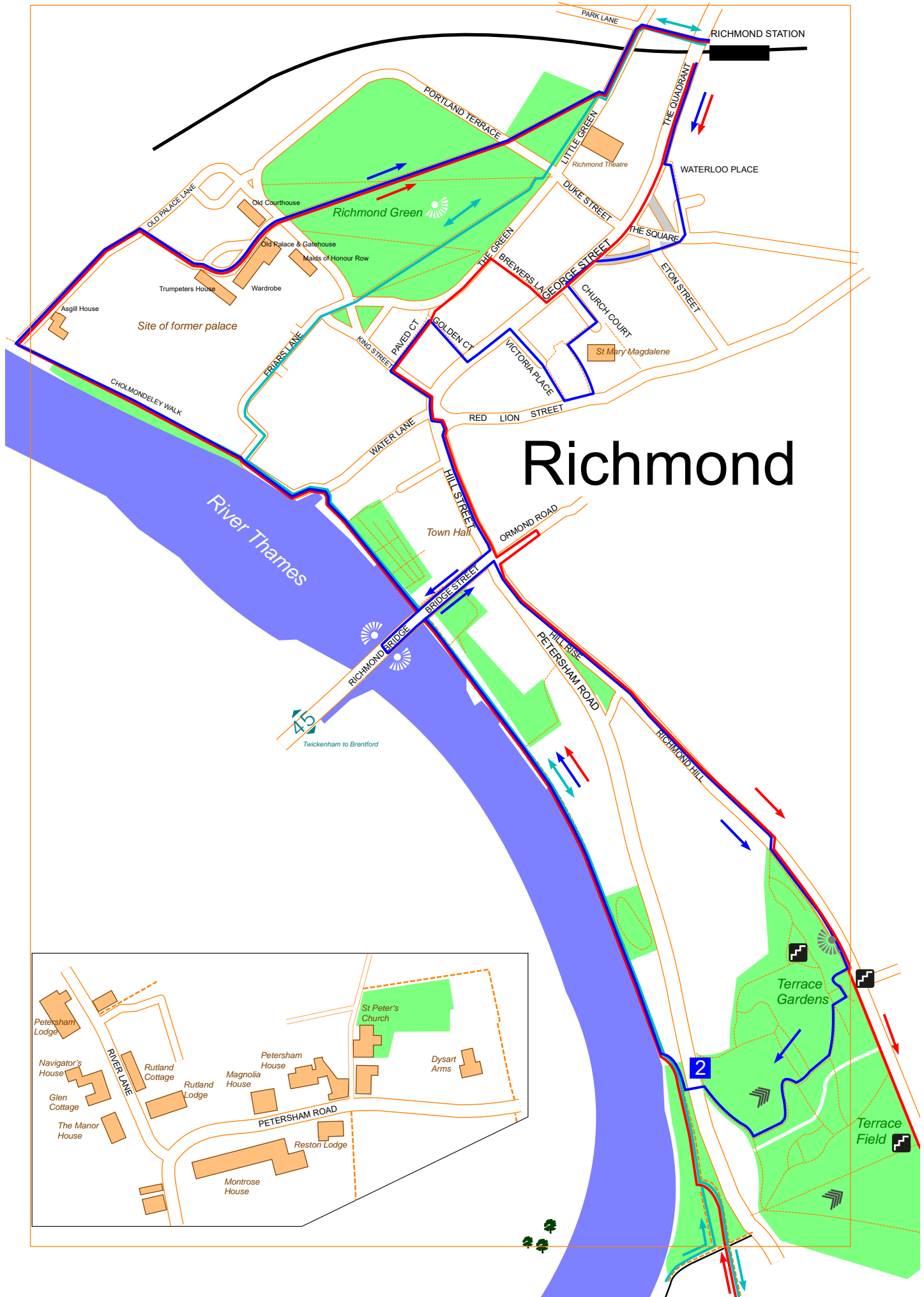


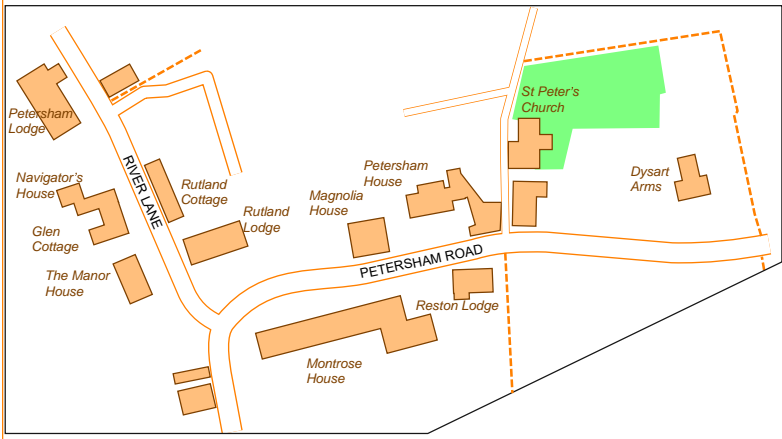
Richmond, Petersham and Ham

0.5 kilometres





Richmond





Richmond Palace

Henry I divided the manor of Shene from the royal manor of Kingston and granted it to a Norman knight. It returned to royal hands in the reign of Edward II, and Edward III extended and embellished the manor house and turned it into the first Shene Palace where he died in 1377. It was extended in stages, but following a fire in 1497, Henry VII lavishly rebuilt it (to the same ground plan) and in 1501 changed the name to Richmond, he and his father being Earls of Richmond, Yorkshire.

For a while Richmond Palace was the showplace of the kingdom. In 1509, Henry VII died there. In 1510 Catherine of Arragon gave birth to a son, Henry, there. He was christened at Richmond, but he died a month later.

Elizabeth I was particularly fond of Richmond as a winter home. She frequently visited at Christmas and Shrovetide and enjoyed having plays performed for her in the palace by companies of players from London. She died at the palace in 1603.

After Charles I's execution, Richmond Palace was sold by the Commonwealth Parliament. The purchasers divided up the palace buildings. While the brick buildings of the outer ranges survived, the stone buildings of the Chapel, Hall and Privy Lodgings were demolished and the stones sold off. By the restoration of Charles II in 1660, only the brick buildings and the Middle Gate were left.

After the Restoration, Stuart children were

raised there but with the Hanoverians the remains of the palace were leased out and, in the early years of the 18th century, new houses replaced many of the crumbling brick buildings. *Tudor Place* was built in the open tennis court as early as the 1650s, *Trumpeters' House* was built in 1702-3 to replace the Middle Gate, followed by *Old Court House* and *Wentworth House* (originally a matching pair) in 1705-7.

The Wardrobe building was joined up to the Gate House in 1688-9 and its garden front rebuilt about 1710. The front facing the court still shows Tudor brickwork as does the Gate House. Maids of Honour Row replaced most of the buildings facing the Green in 1724-5 and most of the house now called 'Old Palace' was rebuilt about 1740.

Richmond Green

The newly named Richmond expanded around the Green to service the palace and court, leaving East Sheen behind. By the first years of the 18th century the Green was home to minor nobility, diplomats, court "hangers-on" and lodging house keepers; they were joined later in the century by French emigres. It is considered one of the most beautiful greens in the country. Numbers 1-6, 11-12 and 32, Richmond Green are Grade II* listed, as are the ornamental iron railings at no 11. Numbers 7-10, 14-18, 21-25 and 29-31 Richmond Green are all Grade II listed, as are the late 19th-century drinking fountain at the south corner of the Green, a lamp standard outside 1, and a pair of red telephone boxes.

On the south-west (former palace) side of the Green the houses at numbers 1-4 Maids of Honour Row, their gates and railings, are Grade I listed, as are the Wardrobe and the Gate House (built 1501), surviving structures from the Palace. The Trumpeters' House, mentioned earlier, is also Grade I listed.

Between Pembroke Villas and Portland Terrace is a gate that used to be the entrance to Old Deer Park and is now open only to pedestrians across a bridge, having been separated by the railway.

Richmond Parish Church

Christians have worshipped on the site of St Mary Magdalene for about 800 years, the first chapel being built around 1220.

Following the lavish rebuilding of the palace was an entire rebuild of the church (between 1487 and 1506). The only survivals from then are the two bottom sections of the tower. The third stage (the bell chamber) was added in 1624 and the whole re-faced in flint to match the new east end building in 1904.

The north aisle was added in 1699. The Tudor nave and a south aisle from c.1614 were rebuilt in 1750 in a matching Georgian classical style. The iron window frames replaced lead lights in 1850.

A scheme of alterations was carried out in 1864-6 by architect A.W.Blomfield and a further revamp in 1903-4 by architect George F. Bodley. The last major change was the removal of the west gallery in 1935-6.

Richmond Bridge

The bridge was first opened in 1777 to replace a ferry. 90 Commissioners were nominated to be responsible for building and maintaining a bridge, using Portland stone, architect James Paine. Funds were raised through a tontine, which lasted until 1859. The bridge was widened last century.

Petersham

The manor at the time of the Conquest belonged to the Abbey of St. Peter at Chertsey, from which the place presumably derived its name. The Abbot of Chertsey gave it to Henry V and it remained in the hands of the crown until the accession of Charles I who in 1636 granted William Murray, one of his old friends and a Gentleman of the

Bedchamber, the manors of Ham and Petersham at the time when much of the land was enclosed by Charles for a hunting park - Richmond Park. (Murray was at that time lessee of the Manors courtesy of Henrietta Maria.) In 1643 Charles created for Murray the Earldom of Dysart and Barony of Huntingtower in Scotland. William's daughter Elizabeth married Lionel Tollemache and the earldom of Dysart and the lordship of the manors of Ham and Petersham descended together in the Tollemache family until the twentieth century.

Elizabeth went on to marry John Maitland, 1st Duke of Lauderdale.

● **St Peter's Church.**

There was a church at Petersham at the time of the Conquest. The present brick building in the shape of a cross was erected in the year 1505, according to the parish register.

In the chancel is a monument of George Cole, Esq. , member of the Middle Temple, and lessee of the Manor from 1608, who died in 1624. Under an arch lies his effigy habited in a black robe and a ruff. Within the rails of the communion table are the tombs of his son and grandson.

Notable buildings

The main street in Petersham village is lined with an exceptional group of 17th and 18th century mansions, such as the listed Rutland Lodge, Montrose House and Petersham House.

Listed buildings include a watchman's box dating from 1787 that also served as a village lock-up.

● With its existing huge Yew hedges and red brick walls, Petersham House has an interesting country garden. The 150ft long herbaceous border starts the year with a vivid display of bulbs, gradually changing to what has best been described as a mad flowering hedgerow. The season is prolonged using early spring flowering

bulbs, including Tulips and Alliums, and extended into late summer and Autumn with Aconitum, Asters and grasses and by using annuals and dahlias. The kitchen garden supplies the Petersham Nurseries Cafe with salad leaves, edible flowers and herbs.

● **Petersham Lodge, River Lane.**

James II granted a lease of a mansion to Viscount Cornbury. While the property of the Earl of Rochester in 1721 it burned down. William the first Earl of Harrington re-built it, after a design of the Earl of Burlington. On the death of the late Earl, it was sold to Lord Camelford, who in the year 1784 purchased the fee-simple of the crown, an act of parliament being procured for that purpose.

● **Montrose House 186 Petersham Road** is a late 17th-century Grade II* listed building built for Sir Thomas Jenner, Justice of the Common Pleas under James II, but is named after the Dowager Duchess of Montrose who lived there from 1837 to 1847.

● **Adjacent to Montrose House is Rutland Lodge, built in 1666 for a Lord Mayor of London but much rebuilt behind the front after a fire in 1967.** The front elevation is faced with brown brick with red dressings and has 7 bays, the centre 3 being set forward slightly. The windows are set in shallow vertical recesses and the arches, which are in gauged brick, have a stepped extrados. The building has a richly carved modillion cornice, probably originally an eaves cornice, the attic storey being an alteration of circa 1720.

The front door has a large doorcase with fluted Roman Doric pilasters on a rusticated surround and has an interesting bracket lamp. The pilasters support a triglyph frieze, surmounted by a segmental pediment.

● **George Vancouver (1757–1798), Naval Captain and explorer who gave his name**

to Vancouver Island, is thought to have lived in Glen Cottage on River Lane; he is buried in St Peter's churchyard

● **Douglas House** is just off the west drive to Ham House. One of its more notable inhabitants was Catherine, Duchess of Queensberry. In 1969 it was bought by the Federal Republic of Germany for use as a German school. New buildings have been erected in the grounds, but the original house and stables have been preserved.

Ham

Unlike Petersham, Ham does not appear in Domesday Book. When Richmond Park was enclosed by Charles I in 1637, Ham parish lost the use of over 800 acres of land stretching towards Robin Hood Gate and Kingston Hill, almost half of which was common land. In return for this, a deed was struck which has effectively protected most of the remaining common land, Ham Common, to the present day. The enclosed land, whilst lost to agriculture, remained within Ham's administrative boundaries.

Development in Ham followed the construction of Ham House in 1610.

Ham House

Ham House, is a Stuart mansion built for the former naval captain Sir Thomas Vavasour in 1608–1610, on land belonging to the Crown. After his death, the lease eventually passed to Charles 1's lifelong friend William Murray. The house remained in the hands of the Dysart/ Tollemache family until the 20th century. The house was expanded and remodelled in the 1670s by Murray's daughter, Elizabeth and her second husband John Maitland, Duke of Lauderdale, to form the grandest of mansions. Their architect was William Samwell. Lauderdale was a member of King's close Privy Councillors (Clifford, Arlington, Buckingham, Ashley-Cooper, and Lauderdale) and the CABAL

sometimes met at Ham House

The interiors are richly decorated with baroque ceiling murals by Antonio Verrio, Caroline plasterwork and rare 'paned' damask hangings. There is a handsome grained and gilded staircase with a carved and pierced balustrade containing trophies of arms. The library dates from the 1670s and is one of the earliest purpose-built country house libraries. An outstanding and exceptionally well-documented collection of late 17th century furniture and paintings which includes a collection of miniatures still housed in the closet designed for them, with works by Nicholas Hilliard and Isaac Oliver. The collection is rich in examples of lacquerware and textiles. The 18-acre garden was designed by the Lauderdales and is one of the oldest surviving garden layouts in Britain.

Ham Lands

In 1904 William Tollemache, 9th Earl of Dysart leased part of the farmland to the Ham River Grit Company Ltd to extract sand and ballast. A dock was constructed in 1913 and a lock in 1921, parts of which remain as the Thames Young Mariners water activity centre. A narrow-gauge railway linked the site to the main road. After the war, most of the pits were filled with bomb-damage rubble from London. The pits operated until 1952, after which some of the land was used for subsequent housing development. Local resistance to further development led to the area being designated Metropolitan Open Land, preserving Ham Riverside Lands as a nature reserve. It has notably unusual vegetation due to the underlying alkaline rubble instead of the more acidic fluvial deposits.

Richmond Park

was created by Charles I in the 17th century as a deer park. At 2,360 acres, the largest of London's Royal Parks, it is of national and international importance

for wildlife conservation. The park is a national nature reserve, a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Area of Conservation and is included, at Grade I, on Historic England's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England. Its landscapes have inspired many famous artists and it has been a location for several films and TV series.

Pembroke Lodge

At some time prior to 1754, the Lodge began life as a humble cottage of one room, occupied by a molecatcher whose sole duty was to reduce the peril presented to huntsmen by molehills.

This cottage was enlarged to form a dwelling with four principal rooms and renamed Hill Lodge. The occupant, John Trage, a gamekeeper, let rooms to Elizabeth, Countess of Pembroke, who became very fond of the Lodge and begged King George III to grant it to her, which he did.

Between 1788 and 1796, Sir John Soane and Henry Holland extended the building, on behalf of the Countess, to form the entire Georgian wing and part of the North wing.

After the death of the Countess in 1831, William IV granted the Lodge to the Earl of Erroll, husband of one of his daughters. Between 1831 and 1846 the Earl completed most of the remainder of the North wing.

In 1847, Queen Victoria granted the Lodge to Lord John Russell, the Liberal Prime Minister, who conducted much Government business from here. Visitors included Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort, Palmerston, Gladstone, Garibaldi, Thackeray, Dickens, Browning, Tennyson, Landseer and Lewis Carroll.

Earl Russell died here in 1878, aged 85. It remained in the family and Bertrand Russell, the philosopher and mathematician, spent his early years there.